

and I requested the British Museum (Natural History) to send me representative specimens of both species. With this additional material in hand, Sálím Ali and I are agreed that we have no specimen of *fuscata* in the Society's collection, and that the bird collected by Sinclair is *anaethetus* and not *fuliginosa* (*fuscata*) as originally recorded.

Judging from the material available, *fuscata* is larger (wing over 270) than *anaethetus* and is separable from it by its much darker upper parts and the white eye-stripe not continuing beyond the eye as it does in *anaethetus*. The two wings from Vengurla Rocks, if correctly measured, indicate that *fuscata* breeds there but, in view of the possibility of error in ascertaining the correct measurements from broken wings separated from the body, it is advisable to await a confirmation.

The 16 specimens of *anaethetus* available in Bombay from the Red Sea to the Andamans and the Ceylon specimens obtained from the British Museum cannot be separated into the three races now accepted in the FAUNA and INDIAN HANDBOOK.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,
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January, 30, 1970.

9. THE FLIGHT SPEED OF THE HOUSE CROW, *CORVUS SPLENDENS* VIEILLOT

On 19 August 1969, I was going from Vellore to Arkonam (North Arcot Dt., Tamil Nadu) in our departmental jeep for field work, when near the village of Vallam, I noticed a pair of house crows flying in the same direction as the jeep. As the trunk road was almost straight and they were flying overhead parallel to the road, we kept pace with them for nearly five kilometres. The speedometer of the jeep showed a constant speed of 35 kilometres per hour. They were flying leisurely quite often calling to each other and it appeared that this was their normal flight speed as against the hurried flight when they are late to return to the roosting place from feeding areas.

Care

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December 26, 1969.